

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01872 101804Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /046 W
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O 101730Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7608

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1872

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CI

SUBJ: FIRST CHANGE IN GOC JUNTA IMMINENT?

1. THROUGH RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT EDITORS OF LEADING SANTIAGO NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET TO DIEGO PORTALES BUILDING (GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS) ON SHORT NOTICE TO DISCUSS WAY IN WHICH REPLACEMENT OF ADMIRAL JOSE TORIBIO MERINO AS JUNTA MEMBER BY ADMIRAL PATRICIO CARVAJAL (PRESENT FONMIN) MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED TO COUNTRY. ANNOUNCEMENT MAY COME LATER THIS WEEK. SOURCE STATES THAT CARVAJAL WILL BE SUCCEDED AS FONMIN BY ADMIRAL HUGO CASTRO, FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

2. MERINO HAS BEEN ILL WITH A HEART CONDITION FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. HIS DISPLACEMENT WOULD BE EXPLAINED ON THIS BASIS, THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE NAVY OVER HIS FAILURE TO ASSERT NAVY'S INTERESTS MORE ENERGETICALLY AT TOP GOC LEVEL.

3. AMBASSADOR SAW CARVAJAL THIS MORNING AND JOKINGLY CONGRATULATED HIM ON SURVIVING LAST WEEK'S CABINET SHAKE-UP. CARVAJAL GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED AMBASSADOR'S COMPLIMENTS, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION OF FURTHER CHANGES.
POPPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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